

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 237

By Turner L

A RESOLUTION to recognize John Birdsong on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, John Birdsong is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty-eight years with the State of Tennessee and will soon be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, indicative of his resourcefulness and determination in accomplishing his goals, John Birdsong successfully graduated from Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Building Construction and from the Nashville School of Law with a law degree; he also earned a certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long, respectable career with the State of Tennessee, Mr. Birdsong has dutifully performed a wide variety of roles, serving with the Tennessee Department of Transportation as an engineer's aide from 1970 to 1972, as a contract compliance officer from 1972 to 1986, and as the Assistant Director of Contract Compliance from 1986 to 1988. He served as the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's Director of the Office of Minority Business Enterprise from 1988 to 2003 and as the Director of the Tennessee Title VI Compliance Commission from 2003 to 2008; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of his community and his profession, John Birdsong has distinguished himself as the recipient of several awards, including the Federal Highway Administration's Minority Business Award, the United States Department of Transportation's Jake Gaither Award for Advocacy, the Nashville Chapter of the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Award for Advocacy, and the Nashville Minority Business Center's Minority Business Advocate Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Birdsong also contributes his time and numerous talents to the enrichment of Nashville's musical traditions through his artful performances of the upright jazz bass; and

WHEREAS, he is the founder of the Birdsong Trio, which has played weekly to large audiences at Nashville's F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar since 1995; and

WHEREAS, possessed of a deep and aiding love of music, this gifted musician has performed with such accomplished artists as Clifford Adams, a long-time jazz trombonist with Kool and the Gang; Earnest Vantrease, a keyboardist for B.B. King and Ray Charles; Larry Carlton, a world renowned jazz guitarist; Donald Brown, a Grammy-nominated jazz pianist; Deborah Brown, an internationally acclaimed jazz vocalist; and Kirk Whalum, an internationally known saxophonist; and

WHEREAS, John Birdsong is grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Michelle Westbrook Birdsong, and his children, Carlos, Tisola, and Alec; and

WHEREAS, he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Birdsong has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to John Birdsong our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, thank him for his many years of service to the State of Tennessee, and wish him well in his future musical endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.